



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

April 2024

President's Message



C. Amplexicaulus

Greetings,

What a beautiful spring we are having! The new growth is phenomenal. If you haven't fertilized, do so now.

Seed pods are forming. A few years ago, you could plan to harvest seed pods from mid August to mid September. With global warming, pods are maturing earlier than in the past. A Ville seed pod in our yard has a nice red color to it.

Wilmot Garden held their annual Spring Sale, and it was very successful. GCS members contributed and sold plants for the cause. Kanapaha Spring Festival was quite successful, where information was shared by GCS members, including a Mansize Camellia donated and raffled.

Progress continues on planning for the 2025 ACS Convention being hosted by GCS.



C. Edithae

A slate of officers and board members will be presented to the membership at this month's meeting.

This month's speaker will be our own Dr. Sanford Porter, who is going to talk about ants and bugs in Camellias. I look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting on April 21st at 2:00.

Jay Ellis, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting March 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by our President, Jay Ellis, who introduced our very special guest speaker, Mark Crawford. Jay announced that this meeting would start with Mark's lecture on his trip to China to tour several large camellia nurseries and learn about the newest hybrids.

Educational Program

Mark Crawford, a plant pathologist by education and current owner of Loch Laurel Nursery, was mentored by Hulyn Smith. Mark is currently overseeing introduction of the newest Chinese four-season camellia-azalea hybrids into the United States. This process includes two years of quarantine and has experienced many problems.



Taylor's Perfection



Georgia Fire

New Business

Jay reminded Charles Simon to send an email to all Kanapaha Spring Festival volunteers serving as GCS booth-bunnies this year with the times for their service. He also told all volunteers to see Merry Reid at the April meeting for reimbursement of the Kanapaha entrance fee.

The American Camellia Society has asked the Gainesville Camellia Society to host the 2025 National Convention. Charles Simon reported that a GCS convention committee headed by Jay and Debbie Ellis has acquired pricing and availability for an 80-100 person convention from Hotel Indigo in Celebration Pointe, and it seemed very possible for GCS to host this event.

Chinese nurseries have been working on these hybrids for nearly 20 years and they've been introduced to all major nations except the United States due to our country's strict policies on importation of new plant species. There are many of these plants throughout Europe and Asia.

The four-season hybrids are all red and take on every camellia form, including singles, formal doubles, peonies and anemones. Most of them are grafted and Mark showed us amazing photos and a short video of the process of grafting dozens of scions onto old growth root stock. They grow in full sub-tropical sun and will flush and fill with buds right after pruning.

Mark provided us with a thrilling behind-the-scenes look at camellia cultivation on a massive scale in China and the wonderful people involved.



In the Pink variegated



Ruby Matthews

A discussion followed and Valerie Malkemes mentioned that the Hilton Convention Center could also easily accommodate the ACS. Charles replied that the hotel and costs were secured for now but there are plans to secure cost bids from the Hilton and possibly other hotels.

John Swanson made a motion to accept the ACS request to host the 2025 National Convention. The motion was seconded and passed by a majority of the members present.

Old Business

There was no Treasurer's report at this meeting. The March report is re-printed below.

Checking: \$12,133

Savings: 10,579

Total: \$22,712

Charles Simon, Secretary



Mabel Bryan Strawberry

Addendum to the minutes

A slate of GCS candidates for the upcoming year is presented below. Any GCS member can nominate any other member to oppose any candidate listed. We will vote on these candidates and any nominees at the April meeting.

<u>President</u>	Jay Ellis (2 nd year of 2-year term)
<u>First Vice President/Show Chair</u>	Debbie Ellis (2 nd year)
<u>Second Vice President/Program Director</u>	Sanford Porter
<u>Secretary</u>	Charles Simon (4 th year)
<u>Treasurer</u>	Merry Reid (10+ years)
<u>Newsletter</u>	Anna Langford (10+ years)

Board Members

- Ron Stevens (2nd year)
- Deborah Engquist (2nd year)
- Julie Burton
- George Sharrad
- Cat Spurgeon
- Rick Davis
- Alex Theodore
- Joanne Theodore

There are two more board member positions that can be filled.

Photos of flowers are from the garden of John Swanson.

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>	
		<i>Food</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
April 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Victoria Watson	Mary Mac Watson
May 19, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Pot Luck Party	Amy & Phil Puccio

Air Layering Event

This year's Air Layering will take place at the Swanson residence (2607 NW 25th Place, Gainesville, 32605, Phone/text at 352-672-2644) on Friday, April 26th from 9am to noon approximately. A meat dish and drinks will be provided by the host, so please bring a side, salad, or dessert if possible. No experience is necessary. A short seminar/lesson will demonstrate the process, so if this is your first time, welcome. Below is a list of things that are usually used.

1. A sharp knife (small to medium) for girdling the branch to be air-layered. If using the pliers method, this might not be necessary
2. A disinfectant solution, (Isopropyl Alcohol, or a bleach solution) in a spray bottle to make sure tools are clean and not spreading a virus, including the variegated virus used to add white to solid color blooms.
3. Heavy duty aluminum foil - can be pre-cut to save time (To protect from birds and/or squirrels).
4. Plastic food wrap, like Glad wrap, Saran Wrap, or similar. (optional)
5. Ties to secure air layer on branch - some folks use tape.
6. Sphagnum Moss. Can be obtained at farm supply store, Lowes, Home Depot, or Garden Gate. One cu.ft. bag is enough for several plants. On line Walmart sells a 3 cu.ft. bag. If you cannot find any, some is available at Swansons
7. A bucket for water in which to soak the moss, prior to use.
8. Plant tags to identify your air layer/plant. (Include your name and the name of the plant.)
9. A clip board or note book to keep track of air layers made and general location of the plants air layered geographically.
10. Rooting powder or liquid (hormone) and applicator brush (small artists' paint brush works well.)
11. A bright orange or yellow or other color plastic strip to help identify and find your air layers when it is time for cutting in October or November.
12. A step ladder. Many plants are tall. Two are available to share.
13. Kits - globular plastic hemispheres are also available.

Dues

The annual dues for Gainesville Camellia Society are due at this time. The amount is \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a couple. Please mail a check for your dues to the Treasurer:

Merry Reid
7631 Monongahela Avenue
Keystone Heights FL 32656
reidm729@gmail.com

***Gainesville Camellia Society
has joined social media!***

Search “Gainesville Camellia Society” to find our Facebook page. There you will find photos, tips on growing camellias, special activities, announcements of future meetings and guest speakers. “LIKE” us on Facebook to receive GSC updates, and tell your friends about our Facebook page.



Officers

President: Jay Ellis
1st VP & Show Chair: Debbie Ellis
2nd VP & Program Chair: Committee
Treasurer: Merry Reid
Secretary: Charles Simon

Board Members

Carter Brenneman
Deborah Engquist
Bill Hayes
Larry Hice
Jerry Hogsette
Konrad Hooper
Sanford Porter
Diane Simon
Ron Stevens
Irma Velez

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, April 21, 2024
Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Program: Ants and Bugs in Camellias by Dr. Sanford Porter

The Gainesville Camellia Society meets at 2 pm on the third Sunday of each month from September through May at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Any changes to meeting dates, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.